REVENUE COMMISSIONER.

Circular Memo No. 3948-56, *dated* 12*th October* 1906.

Under Rule 98 of the Land Revenue Rules, a sale for arrears of revenue is conducted by the shekdar if the estimated value of movable or immovable property does not exceed Rs. 100, but no rules are laid down as to how and by whom the property is to be valued.

Further the forms of proclamation of sale (*vide* Appendix 3 of the Land Revenue Rules) do not give the estimated value of the property except in the case of buildings, the present practice being to enter the estimated value in the declaration of forfeiture.

2. In the Dasara Representative Assembly Subject No. 71 of 1905, it has been represented that lands forfeited for arrears of revenue are often purposely undervalued by the village officials in order to enable the shekdars to hold the sale. As such undervaluation occasionally takes place leading to fraudulent practices and consequent violation of the sales, the Revenue Commissioner lays down the following procedure in valuing the property proposed to be sold for arrears of revenue :—

"The value of the property about to be sold for revenue arrears should ordinarily be estimated by the shekdar after consulting a panchayat, of which the patel and shanbhog of the village shall form members. The panchayat must be instructed to fix the value of the land with reference to the price fetched by similar land in the neighbourhood. The patel and shanbhog shall be responsible for omission to report any transactions which might to their knowledge have taken place as regards any of the items of property in question. The ordinary practice of valuing the property at just above the arrears or the amount of assessment should be discontinued. The trees, wells, etc., of any value on the property should also be correctly described as far as possible together with their estimated market value."

Circular No. 4167-74—3, *dated* 26*th October* 1906.

Rule 85 of the Land Revenue Rules lays down instructions for the proper inspection and maintenance of boundary marks. That these instructions have not been properly enforced is clear from the facts brought to notice in para 2 of Government Proceedings No. R. 2656-67—L. S. 53-05, dated 30th August 1906, reviewing the annual progress report of the Revenue Survey Department. The rule itself was promulgated after careful consideration and is not difficult of execution.

The Revenue Commissioner is led to infer that the village officers and shekdars who are primarily responsible for the inspection and preservation of boundary marks, have not been kept to their duty and properly punished for their neglect by the higher Revenue officers. He therefore directs that the Deputy Commissioners of Districts should, in their Jamabandi and Revenue Administration Reports, bring to notice the work of each Amildar in this branch and recommend, if necessary, the stoppage of promotion to the Amildars who are slack in the performance of this work. A memo of instructions drawn up for the guidance of subordinate officers in carrying out the provisions of Rule 85, is appended.

Memorandum of instructions re *the preservation of boundary marks in Survey numbers, circulated with Circular No.* 4167-74, *dated* 26*th October* 1906.

It is essential for the proper safeguard of the rights of holders of Survey numbers that their Survey marks should be properly maintained. The rules on the subject are quite sufficient for the purpose provided they are systematically and intelligently carried out. A few suggestions are here given for the guidance of subordinate Revenue officers to secure the efficient discharge of this most important work.

2. Rule 85 of the Land Revenue Rules (Chapter XIII) provides for a twofold inspection of Survey marks :—(a) the yearly inspection of every Survey number by the village officers [clauses (*a*) and (*c*)] and (*b*) a test inspection to be systematically carried out in a period of four years for every hobli of a taluk by the shekdar and a few taluk officials deputed for the purpose [clauses (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*)]. In both cases provision exists for the checking of this work by higher officers [clauses (*f*) and (*g*)].

3. (*a*) *Yearly inspection by village officers (Pahani).*—

(i) It is highly desirable that the village officers should begin the Pahani as early as possible each year so as to give sufficient time to defaulting Panchayats for supplying deficiencies before their second inspection begins in accordance with clause (*b*).

(ii) This interval should as far as possible coincide with the period before harvest commences. This will generally be before the south-west monsoon closes. The raiyats will have leisure and the work of repair will be easy. It is very important that the officers should see that the work is properly done so that the bandhs may stand for some years without needing repairs.

(iii) The strict enforcement of the rule prohibiting cultivation of margins of bandhs and Survey numbers (Rules 83 and 84 of the Land Revenue Rules) is very necessary to the preservation of Survey marks, especially in wet and garden lands.

(iv) Trees and spreading shrubs must not be allowed to be planted on or in close proximity to a Survey mark so as to hide or damage it.

(v) The marks in village communal lands should be got repaired by the villagers in the same way and at the same time as those in occupied lands are.

(vi) In the case of bandhs on waste lands a fourth may be taken in hand for repair each year by the shekdar and the patel. The kulvadis and talavars may be employed in setting these right in preference to others.

(vii) Survey marks near the village site and tanks should receive the special attention of the village officers.

4. (*b*) *Test inspection by shekdars and taluk officials* [*Rule* 85, *clauses* (*c*), (*d*) *and* (*e*)].—This systematic test inspection is of supreme importance as it is only by this that the officers of Government have an opportunity of verifying the existence in tact of each boundary mark and stone and the Amildars and Deputy Amildars should carefully enforce the provisions of these clauses.

(i) As the number of villages in each hobli has been increased and as the shekdar will have to attend to his ordinary duties in addition to this work, it is very desirable that at least two taluk officials should be deputed to a hobli, besides the shekdar and that each should have an equal share of the work allotted to him.

(ii) In this arrangement the shekdar being the local executive officer, may be given distant villages in the hobli, the taluk officials taking comparatively nearer ones.

(iii) A register should be opened in the accompanying form and in the beginning of the year a programme should be drawn up allotting the work of inspecting the section for the year.

(iv) The Amildar must give sufficient time to the official deputed for the inspection to ensure his doing it properly. Thus alone can good work be expected and bad work punished. The Amildar will so arrage to depute the officials that the office work may not suffer by the absence of too many officials at the same time. It is important that the inspecting officials should not take the shekdar of the hobli with them as it will interfere with his own share of work.

(v) The following procedure will be found to facilitate the inspection work without fatiguing the official unduly. Getting together the village officers and the raiyats that may be available, the official should proceed from field to field with the village map and the Pahani register in hand and at each field ask individuals, preferably not the owner, to go and stand where each mark has to be according to the map. Thus he will have an idea of the boundaries of the field. He will ascertain in what state each mark is and note in his diary (to be kept for the purpose in the form annexed hereto (marked B). He should, in addition), enter the remarks in the Pahani register as per Rule 85 (*c*) with the assistance of this diary. The official should remember that these are merely hints and do in no way stand in the way of his adopting any equally efficient method of procedure or diminish his responsibility for taking every precaution necessary to securing the accuracy of his inspection.

(vi) The official concerned should submit the diary for each village as soon as finished to the Amildar, who will see that it is in proper form and take suitable action for the supply and repair of the marks which are missing or out of order before the end of the year or the ordinary Pahani inspection of next year. These forms should be carefully preserved villagewar till the whole test inspection is completed and the officials should be made to understand that they will be held liable for errors and omissions detected at the time of the usual Jamabandi and other inspection and the next test inspection.

(vii) The Amildar should personally attend to the distribution of this work among the taluk officials and shekdars, the Head Gumasta being responsible for keeping the lists correctly maintained.

(viii) When inspecting Taluk Cutcherries or conducting Jamabandi or whenever possible, Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners should see that the above rules are observed, that the registers prescribed above are duly maintained and that the work was properly distributed and correctly discharged by the several officials.

5. By seeing that this twofold inspection is rigorously carried out and themselves checking the same in the manner laid down in clauses (*f*) and (*g*) of Rule 85, the higher Revenue officers would be doing everything in their power to fulfil the object of Government in laying down these rules.

Diary of the official deputed for the test inspection of boundary marks during the year 190 -190.

Taluk	Hobli	Village	Section	Survey number	State of Survey marks				Date of inspection	Name of inspecting official	Remarks
					Bandhs		Stones				
					In repair	Out of repair	In repair	Out of repair			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

N. B.—For each village there should be separate forms. There will be as many forms for a village as the number of times the official goes on inspection.

Suggestions of inspecting officials and of village officers should be entered at the close of the inspection on each day.

Programme for the test inspection of boundary marks.

Section.

For the years ... 190 - 190 ... ... A
190 - 190 ... ... B
190 - 190 C
190 - 190 ... ... D

Taluk.

Serial number of village	Name of village	Total Survey numbers in the village	Total number Survey marks		Total Survey numbers assigned for inspection in each section				Total number of Survey marks in each section								Remarks. Here may be entered the name of the officer deputed for inspection and the period in which it should be completed
									A		B		C		D		
			Bandhs	Stones	A	B	C	D	Bandhs	Stones	Bandhs	Stones	Bandhs	Stones	Bandhs	Stones	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Hobli																

A. RANGASWAMI IYENGAR,
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